13th March 1928]

State Prisoners

Release of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon.

* 1709 *Q.*—Diwan Bahadur M. KRISHNAN NAYAR: Will the hon. the Law Member be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether Messrs. K. Madhavan Nayar, M.L.C., and P. Appunni Menon, a member of the District Board of Malabar, undertook to stand as sureties for the good conduct of Mr. M. P. Narayana Menon, prisoner in the Madras Penitentiary, in case of his release; and

(*b*) what orders, if any, the Government have passed in the matter?

A.—(*a*) No. They offered to stand surety that Narayana Menon would not enter the rebel area in Malabar for a maximum period of three years without prejudice to his right to travel through that area in the train.

(*b*) Having regard to the terms of section 401 of the Criminal Procedure Code, the Government were not prepared to release M. P. Narayana Menon on the sureties offered.

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"The answer to clause (*b*) says, 'having regard to the terms of section 401, etc.'. May I know what terms stand in the way?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"Under section 401, it is necessary to get the consent of the prisoner before release."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"May I know if the Government through its representative, the Law Member, made an offer in this House on the the 4th November 1927, that irrespective of the consent or undertaking by Mr M. P. Narayana Menon, if two friends of his came forward and gave an undertaking that he would not enter the rebellion area he would be released?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"The hon. Member will find the statement of the hon. the Law Member in the proceedings of the Legislative Council."

Mr. K. MADHAVAN NAYAR:—"In view of the statement made by Sir C. P. Ramaswami Ayyar, the then Law Member, on the 4th November—this is what he said: 'if Mr. Narayana Menon gives that undertaking to-day or if other friends on his behalf, in the manner which was suggested, give that undertaking, Government will sympathetically consider the question for release,—in view of that statement, may I know whether the Government is prepared to release Mr. Narayana Menon on the acceptance of the surety offered and if not, why not?"

The hon. Mr. A. Y. G. CAMPBELL:—"I must ask for notice of that question, Sir."

Education

Opening of a high school for girls in Bellary.

* 1710 *Q.*—Mr. R. NAGAN GOWDA: Will the hon. the Minister for Education and Local Self-Government be pleased to state—

(*a*) whether the Government have decided to open a high school for girls in Bellary;